MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

RICHMOND, VA., February 27, 1863.

To the House of Representatives:

I herewith transmit a communication from the Secretary of War, covering a list of the civilian prisoners now in custody at the military prison at Salisbury, N. C., in further response to your resolution of the 5th instant, and invite attention to the recommendation in regard to a class of officers to be charged with the special duty of inquiring into the cases of prisoners arrested by military authority. I think such officers would be useful, they being selected for special qualifications, and invested with specific powers.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
War Department,
Richmond, Va., February 27, 1863.

To the President of the Confederate States:

In answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives, I have the honor to enclose a list of the civilian prisoners now in custody in this city and at Salisbury, North Carolina, under military authority. No arrests have been made, at any time, by any specific order or direction of this Department. The persons arrested have been taken either by officers of the army commanding in the field, or by Provost Marshals, exercising authority of a similar nature, and the ground for arrest, is, or ought to be founded upon some necessity, or be justified as a proper precaution against an apparent danger. The Department has had commissioners to examine these persons, with directions "to discharge those against whom no well-grounded cause of suspicion exists of having violated a law or done an act hostile or injurious to the Confederate States."

The Department appointed, in November last, a commissioner to examine prisoners in the South-western Department, embracing a portion of Georgia, Alabama, and a portion of Mississippi. This commission found some obstructions in the performance of his duties, from the Provost Marshals, and some difficulty in obtaining reports from them. He resigned in the latter part of January, without making a report of the prisoners remaining in the department for which he was appointed. These commissioners have been found useful, and I recommend that the Department may be authorized to appoint them for the objects before mentioned, and that they be clothed with the authority of commissioners under the act of the Provisional Congress, No. 273, respecting commissioners appointed by the district courts.

In conclusion, I have to say, that under the examinations that have been made a large number of prisoners have been discharged, and none are retained unless there be a cause of suspicion, supported by testimony rendering it probable that the discharge of the prisoners would be prejudicial to the public interest.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

LIST OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, made in obedience to call of Congress.

No.	Names.	Residence.	Occupation.	Arrested.	Charges Prefered.	Place of Imprisonment.
1	Ange, Samuel.....	North Carolina.	Farmer.	Nov. 9, 1862.	Disloyalty.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N.C.
2	Ange, J. B.....	" "	"	" " "	"	" " " " "
3	Allen, A.....	" "	"	" " "	"	" " " " "
4	Buck, B. T.....	" "	"	March 19, '62.	"	" " " " "
5	Buck, John.....	" "	"	" " "	"	" " " " "
6	Bell, Solomon.....	Virginia.	Shoemaker.	April 10, 1862.	Northern man, strong union.	" " " " "
7	Bailey, A.....	Richmond, Virginia.	Law Student.	Dec. 1, 1861.	English spy.	" " " " "
8	Barnes, Edward.....	Pocahontas Co., Va.		Nov. 20, 1861.	No charges preferred.	" " " " "
9	Butler, J. W.....	Leesburg, Va.	Physician.	May 21, "	Dang rous.	" " " " "
10	Brown, J. L.....	Cumberland Co., Ten.	Distiller.	Nov. 5, "	Endeavoring to get to the enemy.	" " " " "
11	Batty, George.....	Fentress Co., Ten.	Farmer.	April 1, 1862.	Disloyalty.	" " " " "
12	Billingsly. Geo. M.....	Claborne " "	Blacksmith.	Aug. 14, "	Aiding and supplying stock for ememy at Cumberland Gap.	" " " " "
13	Baxley, H.....	" " "	Farmer.	" 13, "	Trading with enemy.	" " " " "
14	Bryant, Charles.....	Cock " "	"	Sept. 13, "	Aiding and feeding stampeders to Ky.	" " " " "
15	Beard, L. M.....	Campbell " "	"	Nov. 1, "	Disloyalty.	" " " " "
16	Bateman, J. W.....	Washington Co., N. C.	"	" 13, "	"	" " " " "
17	Bowman, William.....	Claborne Co., Ten.	"	" 30, "	"	" " " " "
18	Beals, J. H.....	Green " "	"	March 22, '62.	One of Fry's bridge burners in E. Ten.	" " " " "
19	Cox, W. C.....	Jones Co., N. C.	Fisherman.	" 16, "	Union man.	" " " " "
20	Cheerers, Peter.....	Kinston, N. C.	Shoemaker.	July 27, "	Suspicious character—avowed unionist.	" " " " "
21	Curtis, John.....	Beaufort, N. C.	Farmer.	Nov. 9, "	Disloyalty.	" " " " "
22	Craddock, A.....	Washington Co., N. C.	Tailor.	" " "	"	" " " " "
23	Collins, C. A. J.....	City Point, Va.	"	July 8, "	Spy, giving imformation to enemy where onr pickets were.	" " " " "
24	Carter, W. F.....	Hancock Co., Ten.	Farmer.	Feb. 19, "	Disloyalty.	" " " " "
25	Cox, David.....	Green " "	"	March 22, "	One of Fry's com. bridge burners, in East Tennessee.	" " " " "
26	Cogburn, N. J.....	" " "	Carpenter.	" " "	One of Fry's com. bridge burners, in Eeast Tennessee.	" " " " "
27	Crabtree, W.....	Fentress " "	Farmer.	April 1, "	Disloyalty.	" " " " "
28	Crabtree, C.....	" " "	"	" " "	"	" " " " "
29	Caton, Thomas.....	Cock " "	Blacksmith.	" 13, "	Aiding stampeders from Ten. to get to enemy.	" " " " "
30	Cox, Eziekel.....	Lee Co., Va.	Farmer.	Aug. 25, "	Anxious to show Federals our position.	" " " " "
31	Clifton, William.....	Bledsoe Co., Ten.	"	Nov. 1, "	Disloyalty.	" " " " "
32	Delancy, John.....	Kentucky.		Dec. 27, 1861.	No charges preferred.	" " " " "

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33	Davis, J. W.....	Washington Co., N. C.	Farmer.	Nov. 9, 1862.	Disloyalty.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
34	Davenport, A.....	" " "	"	" " "	"	" " " " "
35	Darling, R. B.....	Green Co., Ten.	Clock Repair'r.	March 22, '62.	"	" " " " "
36	Elliott, R. B.....	Tarborough, N. C.	Overseer.	Sept. 16, "	Spy—trading with enemy.	" " " " "
37	Elder, W. R.....	Green Co., Ten.	Farmer.	March 22, "	One of Fry's co. brdge burn's. in E. Ten.	" " " " "
38	Fortner, Elija,.....	Claborne Co., Ten.	"	Aug. 12, 1862.	Disloyalty.	" " " " "
39	Fellows, Otty.....	Fayette Co., Va.	"	" 4, 1861.	Avowed unionist.	" " " " "
40	Fortner, Soloman.....	Claborne Co., Ten.	"	" 12, 1862.	Disloyalty.	" " " " "
41	Gahagan, N. B.....	Madison " "	"	March 22, '62.	One of Fry's bridge burn's. in E. Ten.	" " " " "
42	Hazzard, Samuel.....	New York.	Sailor.	Feb. 6, 1862.	Capt schr. "Jenny Hunter," trying to get vessel and cargo to enemy.	" " " " "
43	Hatmaker, A.....	Campbell Co., Ten.	Farmer.	Oct. 1, "	Disloyalty.	" " " " "
44	Hair, A.....	Washington Co., N. C.	"	Nov. 9, "	"	" " " " "
45	Jackson, J. E.....	" " "	"	" 13, "	"	" " " " "
46	Jones, J.....	Hancock Co., Ten.	Carpenter.	March 21, '62.	One of Fry's co. bridge burn's, in E. Ten.	" " " " "
47	Jones, C.....	Green " "	Farmer.	" 22, "	Disloyalty.	" " " " "
48	Johnson, Andrew J...	" " "	Carpenter.	Nov. 16, "	"	" " " " "
49	Kennedy, Thomas.....	Kinston, N. C.	Farmer.	Dec. 20, "	"	" " " " "
50	Kelly, D. H.....	Green Co., Ten.	"	March 22, "	One of Fry's co. bridge burn's in E. Ten.	" " " " "
51	Kelly, A. W.....	" " "	"	" " "	" " " " " " " "	" " " " "
52	Keller, William.....	" " "	"	" " "	" " " " " " " "	" " " " "
53	King, J. W.....	Cumberland Co., Ten.	"	July 11, 1862.	Aiding and abetting enemy.	" " " " "
54	Key, J. W.....	Claborne " "	"	Sept. 8, "	Disloyalty.	" " " " "
55	Lathinghouse, Wm...	Craven Co., N. C.	"	April 6, "	Avowed union man.	" " " " "
56	Leonard, Allen.....	Philadelphia, Pa.	Engraver.	Jan. 2, "	Suspicioned of going to enemy U. man.	" " " " "
57	Lamb, W. W.....	Washington Co., N. C.	Farmer.	Nov. 9, "	Disloyalty.	" " " " "
58	Leary, E.....	Martin Co., N. C.	Laborer.	" " "	"	" " " " "
59	Luper, William.....	Scott Co., Ten.	Farmer.	April 1, "	"	" " " " "
60	Ledger, D.....	Granger Co., Ten.	"	Aug. 19, "	Associated with a band of marauders, Renegades, etc.	" " " " "
61	Loftin, W. C.....	Craven Co., N. C.	"	Dec. 24, "	Disloyalty.	" " " " "
62	Mercer, John.....	Jones " "	"	April 1, "	Disloyalty—union man.	" " " " "
63	Mercer, Louis.....	" " "	"	" 7, "	" " "	" " " " "
64	Marnex, B. F.....	Williamsburg, Va.	Carpenter.	Nov. 1, 1861.	" " "	" " " " "
65	McClelland, John.....	Richmond, Va.	Sailor.	June 2, 1862.	Drunkeness, continually in jail, dang'rs.	" " " " "
66	McGaha, A.....	Loudon Co., Va.	Blacksmith.	Dec. 15, 1861.	Avowed unionist.	" " " " "
67	McDonald, T. C.....	New York.		Sept. 2, 1862.	No charges preferred.	" " " " "
68	Mercer, W. P.....	Jones Co., N. C.	Farmer.	June 25, 1862.	Avowed unionist.	" " " " "
69	Mason, Z. A.....	Washington Co., N. C.	"	Nov. 9, "	Disloyalty.	" " " " "
70	Maxwell, Witley.....	Western Virginia.	"	Feb. 28, "	Avowed unionist.	" " " " "
71	McNair, John.....	Washington Co., N. C.	"	Nov. 9, 1862.	Disloyalty.	" " " " "
72	McGee, Lemuel.....	Green Co., Ten.	"	March 22, '62.	One of Fry's co. bridge burn's in E. Ten.	" " " " "

LIST OF PRISONERS—(Continued.)

No.	Names.	Residence.	Occupation.	Arrested.	Charges Preferred.	Place of Imprisonment.
73	Miller, David	Green Co., Ten.	Farmer.	July 14, 1862.	Going to Ky., taken within enemy's lines	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N.C.
74	Miller, R. B.	Lee Co., Va.	do	Aug. 13, "	Disloyalty.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
75	Malicote, Calvin	Campbell Co. Ten.	do	Oct. 11, 1862.	do	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
76	Morrell, B. F.	do do do	do	do do do	do	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
77	Miller, Jordan	do do do	do	Dec. 1, do	do	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
78	Mooneham, James	do do do	do	do do do	do	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
79	Mealing, John, Sr.	Union Co., N. C.	do	Feb. 6, 1863.	Aiding, abetting & harboring deserters.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
80	Nobles, Kinsey	Jones do do	do	March 16, 1862.	Avowed unionist.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
81	Perking, C. G.	Goldsborough, N. C.	Merchant.	April 10, 1862.	Union man.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
82	Pancoast, S. A.	Hamilton Co., Va.	Farmer.	Nov. 10, 1861.	Dilloyalty.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
83	Payne, David	Blunt Co., Ten.	do	July 5, 1862.	do	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
84	Poor, Edward	Knox do do	Trader.	July 16, do	Giving information to enemy.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
85	Perkins, Richard	Whitley Co., Ten.	Farmer.	Oct. 15, do	Disloyalty.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
86	Rich, J. W.	Pennsylvania.	Engineer.	June 20, 1861.	do and deserted C. S. A.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
87	Ryan, Geo. W.	Wytheville, Va.	Blacksmith.	March 1, 1862.	do	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury. N. C.
88	Ryder, S. H.	New York.	Tailor.	Oct. 11, do	Trading with Yankees, and inducing negroes to go to Washington, D. C.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, C. C.
89	Rogers, N. R.	Blunt Co., Ten.	Farmer.	Sept. 10, do	Bushwacker and renegade.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
90	Rogers, W. P.	do do do	do	do do do	do do do	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
91	Rowe, Alfred	Campbell Co., Ten.	do	Nov. 1, do	Disloyalty.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
92	Rush, William	Hawkins Co., Ten.	do	April 19, do	do.	C S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
93	Seeds, J. M.	Kentucky.	Miss. R. Pilot.	Nov. 6 1861.	Dangerous man.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N C.
94	Samnons, J. R.	Craven Co., N. C.	Farmer.	April 7, 1862.	Avowed unionist.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
95	Smith, H. H.	New York.	Printer.	Aug. 1, 1861.	Dangerous union man.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
96	Smith, Samuel	do do	Farmer.	May 3, 1862.	Disloyalty.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
97	Scully, Daniel	Pendleton Co., Va.	Laborer.	Oct. 11, 1861.	Union man.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury. N. C.
98	Smith, W. M.	Loudon do do	Farmer.	Dec. 10, do	do do	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
99	Sheets, C. C.	Winston Co., Ala.	Law Student.	Oct. 6, 1862.	Suspicioned of treasonable conduct.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
100	Swanner, Eli	Beaufort Co., N. C.	Farmer.	Nov. 9, 1862.	Disloyalty.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
101	Smith, James	Washington Co. N. C.	do	do do do	do	C S Military Prison. Salisbury, N C.
102	Spruel, A. A.	do do do	do	do do do	do	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
103	Stepp, John	Fentress Co., Ten.	do	April 1, do	do	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
104	Smith, Joseph	Cumberland Co., Ten	do	Sept. 8, do	do	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
105	Spears, W. M.	Hawkins do do	do	July 17, do	do	C. S. Military Prison Salisbury, N. C.
106	Swain, J. W.	Jefferson do do	do	Oct. 18, do	do	C S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
107	Smith, William	Loudon Co., Va.	do	Dec. 18, 186	Avowed unionist.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
108	Smith, Thomas	Campbell Co., Ten.	do	Nov. 1, 1862.	Disloyalty.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.

109	Tailor, F.....	Craven Co., N. C.	Fisherman.	April 20, 1862.	Avowed unionist.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
110	Thacher, Charles A...	Green Co., Va.	Physician.	March 28, '62.	do do	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
111	Thornhill. Alexander.	Jefferson Co. Ten.	Farmer.	April 17, 1862.	Disloyalty.	C. C. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
112	Trippl t, William.....	Green Co., Ten.	do	March 22, '62.	One of Fry's co. bridge burn's in E. Ten.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
113	Trail James.....	Fentress, Co., Ten.	do	April 1, 1862.	Disloyalty.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
114	Tompkins, E. A.....	Overton Co., Ten.	do	April 1, do	Professes to be a federal soldier—no evidence of fact.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
115						
116	Tillman, Michael.....	Lenoir Co., N. C.	do	Dec. 26, 1862.	Disloyalty.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C,
117	Taylor, Moses	Jones Co , N. C.	do	July 26, do	Avowed unionist.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
118	Wesson, Wilson..	Beaufort Co., N. C.	do	April 2, do	do do	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
119	Wi liams, Edward.....	Craven Co., N. C.	do	do do do	do do	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
120	Winne, J. W.....	Washington, N. C.	Schoolteacher.	Nov. 9, do	Disloyalty.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
121	White, Baker.....	Edenton, N. C.	Waterman.	April 4, do	Spy and traitor.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
122	Wood, Isam.....	Davidson Co., N. C.	Iten. Preacher.	do do do	Treasonable conduct and practice, exciting slaves to insurrection.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
123	Workman, William...	Boone Co., Va.	Farmer.	Jan. 11, do	Avowed unionist.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
124	Wilhight. E.....	Hardy Co., Va.	do	Sept. 30, 1861.	Avowed unionist.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
125	Watson. G. H.....	Washington, N. C.	Laborer.	Nov. 9, 1862.	Disloyalty.	C. S Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
126	Woolsey, G.....	Green Co.. Ten.	Carpenter.	March 22, '62.	One of Fry's co. bridge burn's in E. Ten.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
127	Walker, Henry.....	Hawkins Co., Ten.	do	April 19, 1862.	Disloyalty.	C. S. Military P ison, Salisbury, N. C.
128	Winningham, R. A...	Fentress Co., Ten.	Farmer.	do do do	Professes to be a federal soldier, no evidence of fact.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
129						
130	Wright, Mitchell.....	Fentress Co., Ten.	do	Nov. 1, do	Disloyalty.	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
131	Walker, Emmet	Hawkins Co.. Ten.	do	April 19, do	do	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.
132	Wiseman, C. W.....	Marion Co., Ten.	Printer.	April 7, do	do	C S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N C.
133	Yount, Ephram.....	Campbell Co., Ten.	Farmer.	July 14, do	Going to Ky., taken within enemy's lines	C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, N. C.

TABULAR STATEMENT.

North Carolina	41
Virginia	19
T nnessee	60
Kentucky	2
New York	5
Pennsylvania	2
Blank	2
Total number of prisoners	131

SALISBURY, N. C.,
February 17, 1863.

H. McCOY, Captain commanding

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